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INQUIRIES

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WORK PATTERNS OF EMPLOYEES, NOVEMBER 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

Note: The estimates relate to main job only.

In the survey week

5.5 per cent of employees were absent from work for the whole week (on recreation, sick leave, etc.)

3.2 per cent of employees (127,900 males and 30,300 females) worked on all seven days

of persons who worked

1,177,000 (25.3 per cent) did some weekend work

332,300 (7.1 per cent) worked on both Saturday and Sunday

attendance at work during week days, excluding Victoria, where the figures were affected by the Melbourne Cup Day holiday, varied from 91.7 per cent on Thursday to 90.2 per cent on Monday.

population of Australia. The information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These four survey weeks are chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Scope

5. The estimates relate to all employees aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

Definitions

6. Definitions of labour force categories used in this bulletin are the same as those used in the quarterly labour force survey, which are set out in the bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

7. A *full day* is a day on which five hours or more were worked. Days on which fewer than five hours were worked are shown in the tables as *half days*.

8. Persons who worked less than 35 hours in the survey week were not asked about the days on which they worked less than five hours. Consequently, information about full days or half days of work is not available for these persons.

Melbourne Cup Day holiday

9. As stated in paragraph 4, the survey was carried out over a period of four weeks. The Melbourne Cup Day holiday in the metropolitan area of Victoria on Tuesday 2 November occurred in the first of the four weeks, thereby reducing (by about 170,000) the estimates of the number of employees who worked on Tuesday and the number who worked more than 35 hours. In addition, the holiday appears to have affected the estimate for Victoria of the number of persons who attended work on the Monday, the eve of Melbourne Cup Day.

Reliability of the estimates

10. Since the estimates in this statement are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In November 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about the work patterns of employed wage and salary earners, including the number of days worked in a week, the days on which they worked and the incidence of weekend work. For the sake of brevity, employed wage and salary earners are referred to in the tables as "employees".

2. For employees who worked in more than one job during the survey week information was obtained *only for their main job*.

3. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

The population survey

4. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the

that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 20 per cent have not been shown, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although in some cases figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this

topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Symbols and other usages

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

.. Not applicable.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. EMPLOYEES (a) : NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN THE SURVEY WEEK (b), NOVEMBER 1976

Number of days worked (b)	Number ('000)		Persons	Per cent		
	Males	Females		Males	Females	Persons
None (c)	180.8	91.6	272.3	5.6	5.1	5.5
1	37.2	74.2	111.3	1.2	4.1	2.3
2	44.5	110.3	154.8	1.4	6.2	3.1
3	76.4	120.6	197.0	2.4	6.7	4.0
4	212.6	175.3	387.9	6.8	9.8	7.9
5	2,007.3	1,041.5	3,048.8	63.9	58.1	61.8
6	454.1	148.8	602.9	14.5	8.3	12.2
7	127.9	30.3	158.2	4.1	1.7	3.2
Total	3,140.7	1,792.6	4,933.3	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes part-time workers. (b) In main job only. (c) Employees absent from work for the whole of the survey week for any reason (e.g. leave, sickness).

NOTE. The estimates are affected by the Melbourne Cup Day holiday. See page 1, paragraph 9.

TABLE 2. EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED IN THE SURVEY WEEK (a) : DAYS ON WHICH WORKED (b), NOVEMBER 1976

State or Territory	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MALES							
— '000 —							
N.S.W.	994.7	1,002.9	1,006.0	1,005.6	989.4	235.5	100.2
Vic.	(c)747.0	(c)659.0	777.1	782.3	771.5	189.5	65.7
Qld	379.2	380.4	386.8	387.9	385.7	106.2	43.3
S.A.	259.9	262.2	261.9	261.4	259.7	67.4	24.6
W.A.	230.5	233.7	233.9	231.1	229.7	71.1	26.5
Tas.	84.6	85.1	84.9	84.3	83.7	17.4	10.0
N.T.	23.7	23.5	23.8	23.5	23.1	7.2	2.5
A.C.T.	43.2	42.6	43.9	44.3	43.7	10.6	6.7
Australia	(c)2,762.8	(c)2,689.4	2,818.1	2,820.4	2,786.6	704.9	279.5
Excluding Victoria	2,015.8	2,030.4	2,041.0	2,038.1	2,015.1	515.4	213.8
— per cent —							
Australia	(c)93.3	(c)90.9	95.2	95.3	94.1	23.8	9.4
Excluding Victoria	93.8	94.5	95.0	94.8	93.8	24.0	9.9
FEMALES							
— '000 —							
N.S.W.	507.2	511.6	516.2	526.8	507.9	127.9	49.3
Vic.	(c)405.5	(c)348.2	419.2	424.8	420.5	99.0	37.4
Qld	183.0	179.5	187.4	183.2	184.4	60.0	21.9
S.A.	135.6	134.3	136.3	138.5	136.3	39.9	15.6
W.A.	115.6	117.2	117.1	118.2	119.5	38.3	15.0
Tas.	38.8	39.1	38.8	40.2	39.6	8.4	4.9
N.T.	10.7	11.0	10.8	10.9	11.0	2.0	2.7
A.C.T.	24.9	24.9	25.3	25.3	25.1	4.6	1.7
Australia	(c)1,421.3	(c)1,365.8	1,451.1	1,467.9	1,444.2	380.2	148.5
Excluding Victoria	1,015.8	1,017.6	1,031.9	1,043.1	1,023.8	281.2	111.1
— per cent —							
Australia	(c)83.6	(c)80.3	85.3	86.3	84.9	22.4	8.7
Excluding Victoria	83.8	83.9	85.1	86.0	84.4	23.2	9.2
PERSONS							
— '000 —							
N.S.W.	1,501.9	1,514.4	1,522.3	1,532.3	1,497.4	363.4	149.5
Vic.	(c)1,152.5	(c)1,007.2	1,196.2	1,207.0	1,192.0	288.5	103.1
Qld	562.2	559.9	574.1	571.2	570.1	166.2	65.2
S.A.	395.4	396.5	398.2	399.9	396.0	107.3	40.2
W.A.	346.2	350.9	351.0	349.3	349.2	109.4	41.4
Tas.	123.4	124.2	123.7	124.5	123.3	25.8	14.9
N.T.	34.4	34.5	34.6	34.4	34.1	9.2	5.2
A.C.T.	68.1	67.5	69.1	69.6	68.8	15.2	8.4
Australia	(c)4,184.1	(c)4,055.2	4,269.2	4,288.3	4,230.8	1,085.1	428.0
Excluding Victoria	3,031.6	3,048.0	3,072.9	3,081.2	3,038.8	796.6	324.8
— per cent —							
Australia	(c)89.8	(c)87.0	91.6	92.0	90.8	23.3	9.2
Excluding Victoria	90.2	90.7	91.4	91.7	90.4	23.7	9.7

(a) Includes part-time workers. (b) In main job only. (c) Affected by the Melbourne Cup Day holiday. See page 1, paragraph 9.

TABLE 4. EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED 35 HOURS OR MORE IN THE SURVEY WEEK :
WEEK DAY AND WEEKEND WORK (a), NOVEMBER 1976

Weekend work	Number of week days (b)			Total	Per cent of total
	Under 4	4	5		
MALES					
			- '000 -		%
None	8.5	64.2	1,848.0	1,920.8	73.6
One half day -					
Saturday	*	7.2	157.0	165.9	6.4
Sunday	*	*	9.0	9.7	0.4
Two half days	*	*	17.3	18.3	0.7
One full day -					
Saturday	7.1	42.7	219.7	269.5	10.3
Sunday	*	14.5	26.4	43.9	1.7
Two full days	44.1	28.2	91.4	163.7	6.3
Full day Saturday, half day Sunday	*	*	11.3	13.6	0.5
Full day Sunday, half day Saturday	*	*	5.2	5.8	0.2
Worked at weekend	56.0	97.3	537.3	690.5	26.4
Total	64.5	161.5	2,385.3	2,611.3	100.0
FEMALES					
			- '000 -		%
None	4.2	24.7	774.4	803.3	77.2
One half day -					
Saturday	*	2.6	74.4	83.3	8.0
Sunday	*	*	*	*	*
Two half days	*	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.4
One full day -					
Saturday	*	19.0	37.2	59.6	5.7
Sunday	*	9.5	*	14.9	1.4
Two full days	40.5	8.9	17.4	66.8	6.4
One full day and one half day	*	4.9	5.1	5.1	0.5
Worked at weekend	46.0	48.1	143.1	237.8	22.8
Total	50.8	72.8	917.5	1,041.1	100.0
PERSONS					
			- '000 -		%
None	12.7	88.8	2,622.4	2,724.0	74.6
One half day -					
Saturday	*	15.8	231.4	249.2	6.8
Sunday	*	*	12.5	13.4	0.4
Two half days	*	*	21.0	22.4	0.6
One full day -					
Saturday	10.6	61.7	256.8	329.1	9.0
Sunday	5.0	23.9	29.8	58.8	1.6
Two full days	84.5	37.2	108.8	230.5	6.3
Full day Saturday, half day Sunday	*	*	13.6	17.4	0.5
Full day Sunday, half day Saturday	*	*	6.2	7.2	0.2
Worked at weekend	102.6	145.4	680.3	928.3	25.4
Total	115.3	234.2	3,302.7	3,652.4	100.0

(a) In main job only. (b) Full days or half days. Affected by the Melbourne Cup Day holiday. See page 1 paragraph 9.

